



**Written Testimony on Behalf of the Connecticut State Library H.B. No. 5037 (COMM) AN ACT
ADJUSTING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2023**

February 17, 2022

Senator Osten, Representative Walker, and Appropriations Committee members:

I am writing in support of Governor Lamont's budget allocation for the Connecticut State Library. I am pleased the budget maintains funding for the programs and services of the State Library and expands access to Braille library materials. I am especially pleased that the proposed changes to the State Library's budget will not reduce matching Federal Funds from the Institute of Museum & Library Services (IMLS).

Here are just some of the ways the programs and services of the State Library help Cragin Memorial Library serve the people of Colchester:

- The **Connecticut Library Consortium (CLC)** helps us maximize our local taxpayers' dollars by negotiating deep discounts on library materials and library-specific furnishings and supplies. Last year Colchester saved \$27,744.63 thanks to this invaluable partner.
- The **ResearchIT CT** collection of research databases provides rich resources for the general public and students of all ages.
- The **BorrowIT CT** program allows us to serve non-residents and for our residents to use other public libraries in the state and reimburses us for those services. The funds we receive help us build a collection, update our technology, and train our staff.
- The **DeliverIT CT** program delivers materials from libraries across the state to Colchester's residents and Colchester's materials to the residents of other towns. You might be surprised to learn that we send more materials out than we receive!
- The **Division of Library Development** offers valuable professional development opportunities at no cost to library employees. They also provide expert consultation on digitization of historical materials, programming, and collection development. They are administering the allocation and expenditure of ARPA funds for public libraries—providing oversight and expertise. They support our application for Federal savings on telecommunications equipment and services.

Additionally, the Governor's Everybody Learns Initiative is providing the Library with outdoor access points, allowing us to expand the reach of our Wi-Fi. Thanks to new software funded through Federal ARPA funds, I can report that we have Wi-Fi users at the Library nearly 24 hours a day.

Over the past decade, the State Library budget was cut repeatedly, resulting in a reduced number of authorized positions and eroding many of the programs and services I listed. I hope that this budget will serve as a great start for the State Library and will lead to renewed and expanded support for its critical programs and services in the future.

Thank you, as always, for your support for Connecticut's libraries as we support and serve our communities!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kate Byroade". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Kate Byroade, MSLIS
Director, Cragin Memorial Library
Colchester